

February 4, 2003

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch  
Commission Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street SW  
CY-B402  
Washington, DC 20554

RE: Proceeding 03-16

Dear Ms. Dortch:

As president of the Michigan State Conference of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), I am writing to express my support for SBC's application to provide long distance service to its customers.

Choice is needed in the long distance arena. Having another provider is excellent for the state of Michigan and its economy. Consumers will move one step closer to more competitive choices and better value in long distance service from a company whose local roots go back more than a century. According to a 2001 Consumer Action survey, long distance rates offered by local telephone companies like SBC are up to two-thirds lower than those offered by major long distance companies. It is time for Michigan consumers to reap the benefits associated with competition in the long distance market.

SBC has been a positive force throughout all Michigan communities and has earned its right in the marketplace to offer long distance services and a full range of top-quality telecommunications products.

Today, consumers in 23 other states have what we want, convenience of one bill and the freedom to choose. It is time that Michigan is afforded those same benefits. I proudly give my support of the Federal Communications Commission approving SBC's long distance application.

Sincerely,

Yvonne M. White  
President